

March 7, 1996

IB 1138

SENATOR BOHLKE: The committee amendments is just the E clause, and then Senator Wehrbein was going to discuss LB 1138.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: So I can give a brief explanation, Mr. Speaker, of the bill, and then as I do that, should indicate the need for the committee amendment, making it an emergency. I don't know whether to give the complicated technical version or the abbreviated version. I think I'll start with the abbreviated version. What this does is it basically allow the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission to lease space on Nebraska's double width transponder to commercial and nonprofit users. We've had quite a few technological improvements within the...in the communications industry. Nebraska has a very valuable space on our transponder that if we would go to digital programming, we would have extra space that we could lease out over the next three or four years to pay for our advancing technology using compressed digital, digital format. And so the reason for this bill is to allow us to lease this space out to other users which would in turn pay for our, improving our technology. And the reason for the emergency clause is that the sooner we do this, the better. So that will explain the reason for the E clause. And then if there's more questions on the other more technical aspects, I will take them up in questions or in further explanation. At this point I would think I've indicated the need for the E clause, which is the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Any discussion on the amendment? Seeing none, Senator Bohlke, close on the amendment? Closing is waived. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 1138. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The committee amendments are adopted. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein, to open.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I did give a